CLAIMS:

1.   A method of selecting data for use in decoding an embedded watermark in
compressed multimedia data, comprising the steps of:
- calculating a quality metric for a given part of the compressed multimedia data, based
  on the degree of compression of the multimedia data;
5 - including in a watermark decoding process, the given part, if its quality metric is
  higher than a certain threshold, and;
- excluding from the watermark decoding process, the given part, if its quality metric is
  lower than the threshold.

10 2.   A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the method additionally includes the
step of using the same quality metric to select data to use in a scale-detection process
performed before the watermark decoding process.

3.   A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the quality metric is calculated on the
15 basis of an analysis of a compressed data stream.

4.   A method as claimed in claim 3 wherein the quality metric is calculated on the
basis of one of the following parameters associated with the compressed data stream:
Quantisation factors; the number of Variable Length Codewords (VLCs) used to code a data
20 frame; Motion Vectors.

5.   A method as claimed in claim 4 wherein the quality metric is calculated on the
basis of a plurality of parameters associated with the compressed data stream.

25 6.   A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the quality metric is calculated on the
basis of an analysis of base-band data.

7.   A method as claimed in claim 6 wherein the quality metric is calculated on the
basis of a measure of the energy of a frame.

8.   A method as claimed in claim 7 wherein the quality metric is calculated on the basis of a plurality of parameters associated with the base-band data.

5   9.   A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the given part of the data is a frame.

10.   Apparatus arranged to perform the method of any one of the preceding claims.